Lawyers Agree In $800,000 Estate

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Lawyers in the $800,000 Philadelphia estate case, to which T. John McKee, a New York lawyer who has been passing, is one of the claimants, are agreed that their clients are entitled to annuities provided for them in the will of late Colonel John McKee, a Civil War veteran, and to their proportionate share of whatever money there is for the establishment of a school; that the trust is illegal because it is charitable, and that the doctrine of cypress (as nearly as possible in conformity to the intention of the testator) does ont apply.

* * * *

Marie Hawkins Ellington the bride of Nat (King) Cole was formerly employed in the office of V. D. Johnston, treasurer of Howard University . . . Christine Hughes, secretary to Representative Bill Dawson, of Chicago, is convalescing at her home from a recent operation.

* * * *

Governor Bill Hastie of the Virgin Islands is back in the States pushing legislation to give back to the Virgin Islands revenues on rum imports.

James Hackney, 1945 graduate of the Howard University Medical School, has been appointed resident in surgery at the Boston (Mass.) Marine Hospital by the United States Public Health Service for a year, beginning July 1.

* * * *

George Murphy Jr., national commander of the United Negro and Allied Veterans, is joining the Wallace-for - President headquarters on Park avenue in New York . . . The NAACP is drafting statements for submission to the resolutions committee of the Republican and Democratic national conventions for insertion in party platforms.

* * * *

First Lt. Bert Cumby, who is temporarily stationed at the Army's Public Information School at Carlisle Barracks, (Pa.) spent the Easter weekend here with his mate, Esther, a schoolmistress. Upon completion of the course at the Army Information School May 1, he is due to return to his permanent station at Fort Benning (Ga.).

Elmer Henderson, a bachelor and executive secretary of the National Council for a Permanent FEPC, tossed a party the other Saturday evening for the Lawrence D. Reddicks (Ella Ruth), who were enroute to Atlanta where he will be the librarian at Atlanta University. He was formerly curator of the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature in the New York Public Library.

NEGROES BUYING HOMES FASTER THAN WHITES, SAYS SURVEY

WASHINGTON — Negroes are setting up housekeeping and are buying homes in larger numbers proportionately than whites, but they still get the dirty end of the stick when it comes to the condition of houses they occupy.

These conclusions were apparent this week in a survey released by Joseph R. Houchins, specialist in Negro statistics of the Bureau of the Census.

Cautioning that the estimates are based on a sample, 30,000 households in 148 areas of 44 states, and are "subject to error due to sampling variability", Houchins said nevertheless that his figures indicate "an upturn" of about a half - million "non-white", largely Negro occupied dwelling units in U. S. urban and rural-nonfarm areas.

Also, said Houchins, an increase from 24 to 34 percent in the proportion of Negroes owning their own homes was indicated by his survey. He added that "The significant rise in home ownership among nonwhites between 1940-47 is, in a large measure, accounted for by the urge for home ownership, the Negro's high employment level, and the comparatively high earnings of Negro workers."

The survey indicated 2,800,000 dwelling units occupied by non white households in urban centers This was a 24 percent increase ove 1940, as opposed to a 16 percent i crease among whites.

Twenty-five percent of the dwellings occupied by Negroes are in need of repair, while only six percent of those whites live in are in the same condition, Houchins said.

Whites had a corner on the houses which contain private baths and flush toilets too, Houchins pointed out. He estimated that 95 percent of the housing units containing such features are occupied by whites.

Eight out of 19 white homes have electric lights and running water, flush toilets, bathtubs or showers, and installed cooking facilities, said the report, while four out of 10 Negro housekeepers have these necessities.

Whites average 4.9 rooms in their homes, while Negroes average 3.9. Extent of overcrowding in homes is about 15 percent for Negroes and about four percent for whites, the survey went on.

Home Ownership Among Negroes Ahead Of Whites

Daily World
June 12-13-48

CHICAGO — (SNS) — "One out of every three Negro families in the U. S. today owns the house they live in," a November Ebony feature declares, "with the result that Negro home ownership is proportionately greater than that of whites, according to the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency."

Avid hunger of families for a home of their own and increased investment of millions of dollars in property by wealthy Negroes are the two factors most responsible for their increase in Negro home ownership, the Ebony story entitled "Real Estate" avers. However, the article adds, despite these advances the demand is still tremendous because of the big gain in Negro population in urban areas.

"The number of Negroes in these areas rose by a third in the last seven years but dwelling units for them rose by only a fourth," Ebony says, and adds:

"This boom in real estate in Negro communities has brought a bonanza to the nation's 5000 colored realty brokers whose yearly sales volume now tops the billion dollar mark."

The magazine also predlicts that the Supreme Court decision against restrictive covenants will open many new fields for Negro realtors and an even bigger year will follow in 1949.

Ohio Industrialist Leaves $250,000

Afro American
Baltimore Md.
Sat. 10-16-48

CLEVELAND—The late Lyman B. Kilgore, vice-president and treasure of B. and T. Metals Co., here, left over a quarter of a million dollars according to an inventory of his estate filed in probate court recently.

Members of his family named beneficiaries i nhis will and who own 75% of the company's stock are:

His wife, Mrs. Mabel Kilgore, his daughters, Sarah Fox and Virginia Tolbert and Lawrence Tolbert, a son-in-law, each of whom was bequeathed 50 shares of common no-par stock valued at $55,250; and Anita and Joseph Fox, grandchildren, 25 shares amounting to $27,625 for each.

Estate Listed

The estate consists of: real estate, $25,000; stocks and bonds, $222,150; mortgages, notes, bank deposits and cash, $11,707; household farm equipment, miscellaneous, $9,101; joint checking account with spouse, $2,319.23; joint checking account with daughter, $243.78.

Also included in the estate is a 160-acre farm at Borror Rd., in Jackson Township, Franklin county, now being operated by Harold Weaver on an equal share basis. Virginia Tolbert, a daughter, executrix of the estate, is carrying on her father's work.

Mr. Kilgore, who died last July 31, manufactured metal trimmings now familiar on kitchen sinks, flooring, bars and the like. He evolved a system for fastening the edging to an object concealing nails or screws and copyrighted his idea under the trade name "Chromedge."

Negro has 20,000 acres in Florida

Defender
Los Angeles

CHICAGO — Largest Negro owned ranch in the United States is a 20,000-acre livestock empire in the heart of Florida, the property of 60-year-old Lawrence Silas. According to July Ebony magazine, the Negro cattleman's ranch crew includes Negro and white cowhands, 24 in all.

The ranch is in the sandy Kissimmee Valley, heart of a Florida industry that ranks second only to Texas. In addition to raising livestock of his own, Silas buys and sells for big-monied ranchers. His aptitude for picking animals has won him repute up and down the state.

6-19-48

Massachusetts Will Remembers Servants

Chronicle
San Francisco
Saturday

SALEM, Mass.—A total of $10,600 was left to twelve servants by Mrs. Bertha Cobb Denegre of Manchester, who had property valued at $950,000.

The bequests were disclosed when her will was recorded here.

Seamstress Gets Top Irish Sweeps Award

Brooklyn Mother, One of 8 in U. S. Holding Prize-Winning Ticket

NEW YORK—Winning $100,000 in the Irish Sweepstakes has not disturbed the calm of Mrs. Grace Worrell, 49-year-old dressmaker, living at 929 Marcy Ave., Brooklyn. Wife of a ship's steward, Mrs. Worrell told the AFRO on Monday that she will be glad when the "fuss is over," so she can get back to her sewing.

Mrs. Worrell is one of eight Americans who won $100,000 first prizes by picking the winning horse in the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes, which are based on the Grand National steeplechase races at Aintree, England. Six Americans were winners of the $40,000 second-place prizes; and seven held tickets on the third-place competitor, which paid each of them $20,000. Thus, in this country, 21 ticket-holders on the first three horses won a total of $1,180,000 in this year's sweeps.

The $100,000 winners held tickets on a horse named "Sheila's Cottage," which won top money in the 102nd running of Saturday's steeplechase.

Friend Broke Good News

Said Mrs. Worrell, "A friend told me I had won, so I bought a newspaper to be sure, but I have not even had my radio on since Friday." Born in Barbados and living in the United States since 1929, Mrs. Worrell says she has been buying sweepstakes tickets for years, and has been making dresses since before she came here.

She lives in a pleasant six-room apartment and has a daughter, Grace, 17; and two older sons, Frank and Livingston. Her husband is on the high seas, and she won't try to get in touch with him.

Felt She Was "Bound to Win"

She told this reporter, "I am not buying a car, or taking any trip, or moving. Why should I get excited? If you keep buying tickets you're bound to win sometimes."

Brownskinned, attractive in a wine-colored dress and black shoes, Mrs. Worrell belongs to no particular church and doesn't care much for clubs and shows.

Will Receive $33,000

"I get relaxation at my sewing machine," Mrs. Worrell stated. She estimates that after taxes she will receive about $33,000.

The fortunate seamstress expects to take out citizenship papers this year.

The second-place horse in the winning sweepstakes was "Dandies"; and the third was a mount named "Cromwell."

White Suicide's Note Leaves $100,000 Interest to Fiancee

LOS ANGELES—(ANP)—Just before Charles Gore, white, son of Abe Gore, head of the famous Gore Theaters, committed suicide on April 3, he left a letter and a note requesting that his colored fiancee, Miss Juanita Taylor, 22, be legally recognized as heir to his half interest in the $100,000 Esquire Liquor and cigar store business.

This information was revealed last week when Joseph Washington Jr., Los Angeles Sentinel publisher, produced the note and letter which Gore had placed under the newspaper office door before ending his life in the rear of his store. He was rumored along "Film Row," where the Gore family owns huge interests, to predict a fight to prevent Miss Taylor from inheriting.

Young Gore had fallen in love with Miss Taylor when he employed her as a clerk over a year ago. Since that time they have been regular associates. Miss Taylor has retained Loren Miller, attorney, to intercede in the matter for her in an effort to block moves to deny her the half interest. Charles (Buddy) Gore, white cousin, is said to own the other half of the business.

Massachusetts Will Remembers Servants

SALEM, Mass.—A total of $10,600 was left to twelve servants of Mrs. Bertha Cobb Denegre of Manchester, who had property valued at $950,000.

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Wall Street Lawyer Says He's Heir to Negro's Rich Estate

NEW YORK—The startling revelation that a respected Wall Street lawyer, who has been accepted as white for nearly thirty years, is the grandson of a prominent deceased Philadelphia Negro was made here Thursday when T. John McKee filed a claim to the late Col. John McKee's $800,000 estate.

The petition was made in Philadelphia's Orphans Court when Attorney McKee's lawyer, H. Eugene Heine, contended that his client was entitled to the life income from the large trust fund which the Colonel created when he died in 1902.

The New York lawyer who is claiming the estate is seriously ill and may have to testify from his hospital bed at Lenox Hill Hospital here.

CLAIM SUPPORTED

At the hearing in Philadelphia, which was predicted to be a mere formality before ordering the estate to be paid over to the Catholic Church, the testimony of witnesses, including five great-grandchildren of Colonel McKee, left little doubt that the claimant is a grandson of the Negro Civil War colonel.

CHANGED NAME

Born Theophilus John Minton Syphax, the ailing New York attorney had his name changed to T. John McKee by the Superior Court of Hartford, Conn., in June, 1904, a certification produced at the hearing shows.

By terms of Colonel McKee's will, his estate was left in trust until the death of the last of his grandchildren, and then was to be used to build and operate a naval school for orphan children in Bristol Township, Bucks County.

This purpose is not feasible, according to Cardinal Dougherty, trustee of the McKee funds. On the Cardinal's petition, the Orphans Court appointed John Blessing as referee to recommend what alternative use, should be made of the estate in favor of some other charitable purpose.

HEIRS SEEK ESTATE

The "heirs," including Attorney McKee, now claim the estate for themselves because of the impossibility of performance of the McKee will's provisions.

Among the witnesses was Mrs. Camilla Johnson, 25 North Fortieth Street, administratrix of the estate of the late Dr. Harry Minton, reportedly the last of Colonel McKee's grandchildren, who was Mrs. Johnson's cousin.

Her attorney, Herbert G. Hardin, asked her if she had ever heard Dr. Minton say that he had a cousin in New York who was not known as a Negro.

"Yes, I heard that," she replied.

"Who was that person supposed to be?"

"He was supposed to be Theophilus John Syphax," Mrs. Johnson replied.

"Now known as T. John McKee," the attorney added.

KIN TESTIFY

Witnesses who identified themselves as great-grandchildren of Colonel McKee at the hearing are William McKee Syphax, Asbury Park; Abbie Syphax Jones, Washington; Lillian Syphax Jackson Washington; Bismark Syphax, Jersey City, and Alma Syphax Scurlock of Washington. Another witness was Mrs. Novella Dyson Syphax of Washington, who said she is the widow of Marcellus M. Syphax, who was a grandson of McKee.

IS YALE GRADUATE

Attorney McKee is a graduate of the fashionable Trinity College in Hartford and the Yale Law School.

After his graduation, he cut himself off from his family completely. He had three brothers who retained the name of Syphax, and all became Federal Civil Service employes, three of them living in Washington and one in Pittsburgh. All were prominent in Negro circles. They are all dead now.

However, they are survived by five children who are William McKee Syphax, Asbury Park, N. J.; Abbie Syphax Jones, Lillian Syphax Jackson and Alma Syphax Scurlock, all of Washington, and Bismarck Syphax of Jersey City, N. J. The above are great grandchildren of Colonel McKee and are seeking an order from Orphans Court declaring them to be heirs at law of the estate.

LIVE IN SWANK APARTMENT

Attorney McKee and his wife live quietly in an expensively furnished five-room apartment at 230 West Forty-eighth Street. All their visitors were white people of evident wealth and breeding.

Attorney McKee's wife is former Aimee Rennett of an old New York family. Friends of the McKees say that Mrs. McKee was not aware of her husband's racial background.

Elk Ruler Buys Apartment House

NEW YORK (NNPA) — J. Finley Wilson, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks, has purchased a 36-unit apartment house in Harlem, it was learned last Thursday.

The beautiful apartment house is located at 351 W. 114th St., in a triangle formed by the junction of Morningside Drive, Manhattan Ave., and 114th St. Located on two bus routes, is only a half block away from the Eighth Avenue subway and is across from Morningside Park.

Across the park and above the apartment on a hill is Columbia University and St. Phillip Church. The residence houses the Randolph Coleman Bible Academy among its other tenants.

Mr. Wilson purchased the house from the Manhattan Life Insurance Company. The transaction involved an $85.000 mortgage.

Author's Estate Left Orphanage

LOS ANGELES, Calif., June 5—Mrs. Helen Dreiser, widow of the late author, said Thursday that she would fulfill his wishes in bequeathing property left to her to some Negro orphanage. Her lawyers explained that Dreiser's will gave the widow all of his estate appraised at $101,549. Dreiser died in 1945 at the age of 74.

GOLD FOUND NEAR NEGRO COMMUNITY

LOS ANGELES (ANP)—The startling cry of "gold, gold" rang out from Sutters creek in Mountain View Village, persistent mine workers brought forth borings proven by assayists to be the real ore. Tests revealed that it assays about $66.50 to the ton, and a sizable vein is located here.

In this little settlement located about three miles from the Erwing ranch in Mountain View Village, persistent mine workers brought forth borings proven by assayists to be the real ore. Tests revealed that it assays about $66.50 to the ton, and a size-

Widow Files As Policy King's Heir

Mrs. Louis Hutchen, widow of "Buddy" Hutchen, Gary policy king who was killed June 18, has been appointed administratrix of her husband's estate which is said to be valued at $110,000.

Her attorney, Milo Murray, stated this week that this estate does not include Hutchen's restaurant, at 18th and Massachusetts sts., Gary, his home at 2440 Jefferson, nor his interest in the Chicago Pershing hotel. He stated that he does not know the status of this property, but presumes it to be owned by Hutchen in the name of some friend or relative.

Mrs. Hutchen filed in Lake county superior court, Indiana, as the sole beneficiary in addition to her son, Eugene, a student at the University of Chicago. There was no will. She listed $100,000 in personal property of her late husband and $10,000 in real estate.

Chicago Church Woman Leaves $50,000 Estate

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Personal and real property valued at $50,000 was left by Mrs. Hazel Evelyn Anderson, well known church woman and member of Metropolitan Community church who died September 30, it was revealed this week.

Her will was admitted to probate last week and a sister, Mrs. Laura Roberts Chunn, is executrix of the estate according to the will. The estate will be shared by:

Mrs. Ophelia Roberts Pemberton Evanston and Mrs. Olivia Roberts Ray, Mrs. Lula Mae Roberts Almand and Mrs. Laura Roberts Chunn of Chicago, sisters of Mrs. Anderson; Tota Fa Almand and Mona Ray, nieces of Chicago, and Roosevelt Ray of Chicago, a brother-in-law.

Other beneficiaries include the Chicago Tuskegee club, the Rev. Richard Davis, pastor of Indiana Avenue Christian Church, and tht Sunflower Club of the Metropolitan Community Church. Loring P. Moore is attorney for the estate.

Shoemaker Will Gets $100,000 Bequest, Probate Court Rules

CHICAGO.—James Mattalina, [illegible] week ... Judge ... [illegible]

right to $100,000 willed him by his aged employer was challenged, will get the money after all.

Frank M. Ozinga, assistant to the probate judge, admitted the will to probate. At the same time he denied an earlier will that left the money to two cousins of the employer, Mrs. Anna Craig, 82, who died September 3.

Mattalina had been a chauffeur for Miss Craig and her sister 2[illegible] year.

Fortune Was Gained From Policy Game

Estimated at $150,000 at the time of his death, the estate of McKissack Jones, policy king killed in an automobile accident July 21, 1944, was closed in Probate Court this week at $443,826.77.

A signed account of the estate submitted by the law firm of Ratner, Miller, and Levinson, was approved by Frederick B. Resag, assistant to the Probate Judge.

Three trusts were set up under Jones' will. One for the benefit of his widow, Jean, was for $150,000;

McKISSACK JONES

another $50,000 trust was set up for a nephew Edward P. Jones, while a third residuary trust was for the benefit of Jones' mother, nieces and nephews.

When he died, Jones, who lived at 4724 Michigan ave., had an account of $47,184 in the Drovers National Bank. Other assets of his estate included: proceeds from the sale of 50 shares of stock in the Jones Finance and Investment Corp., amounting to $10,949; 150 shares in the Jones Corp., valued at $20,670; 135 shares, Garfield-Indiana Building Corp., $41,216; 150 shares in H. L. Jones, Inc., $4,310, and proceeds from the liquidation of Jones Brothers $245,727. included $31,509 for income taxes;

Disbursements from the estate included $31,509 for income taxes; $103,953 for federal estate taxes; $9,519 inheritance taxes and $15,000 attorneys' fees.

Admx $50,000 Estate To Probate

Authority was given this week to Mrs. Laura Roberts Chunn to administer the $50,000 estate of Mrs. Hazel Evelyn Anderson, for 30 years a Chicago resident, who died last September 30. Mrs. Chunn was named in the will as executrix and Loring B. Moore is Atty. for the estate.

Relatives named as heirs include Mrs. Ophelia Roberts Pemberton, Evanston; Mrs. Olivia Roberts Ray, Mrs. Lula Mae Roberts Almand and Mrs. Chunn, sisters of the deceased; Tota Fa Almand and Mona Ray, Chicago, nieces, and Roosevelt Ray, Chicago, a brother-in-law.

In addition bequests were made to the Chicago Tuskegee club, the Rev. Richard Davis, pastor of Indiana Avenue Christian church, and to the Sunflower club of the Metropolitan Community church of which Mrs. Anderson had long been a member.

Fight Over Control Of Mme. Walker Co.

(Special to The Courier)

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—A knock-down drag out fight for control of the Madam Walker Hair Company and the Mae Walker Kennedy estate began last Thursday in the courts here when Merion R. Perry and Sue Knox began suit against Robert L. Brokenburr, executor of the Walker estate.

Merion R. Perry is the husband of the late Mae Walker Perry, who died without a will on Dec. 5, 1945. Perry is therefore the rightful heir to a large part of the estate left by his wife. Perry and Mrs. Sue Knox were named executors of the late Mae Walker Perry estate.

ASSETS NOT RECEIVED

They are bringing this suit on the basis that assets which should have come to Mae Walker Perry as sole heir to A'Lelia Walker Kennedy, her mother, were never received. And that Robert L. Brokenburr and the late Freeman B. Ransom, executors of the A'Lelia Walker Kennedy estate were responsible for the failure of Mae Perry to receive her just share from her mother's estate.

Mrs. A'Lelia Walker Kennedy died Aug. 7, 1931 and Brokenburr and Ransom took charge of her estate on Aug. 28, 1931. The estate has never been settled. Brokenburr and Ransom were put in charge of the Walker Hair Company business by virtue of their appointment as executors of the A'Lelia Walker Kennedy estate.

DIDN'T FILE ASSETS

Merion Perry and Sue Knox charge in their complaint that Brokenburr and Ransom failed to file assets belonging to the A'Lelia Walker Kennedy estate amounting to $58,000. The existence of these assets was well known to Brokenburr and Ransom, the petition alleges.

Paragraph Six of the petition says that Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company owed the estate of A'Lelia Walker Kennedy $60,000, but that Brokenburr and Ransom never listed this claim in their inventory of assets of the A'Lelia Walker Kennedy estate.

Paragraph Seven of the complaint further alleges that there was one lot, household goods, silverware, sets of china, furniture, linen, rugs and other articles which the A'Lelia Walker Kennedy estate failed to list.

The complaint avers that all these assets were known to exist by the executors of the A'Lelia Walker Kennedy estate yet these gentlemen filed an affidavit in the courts of Indiana omitting these assets and alleging that the assets they did enumerate were all that A'Lelia Walker Kennedy had at the time of her death.

SEEK BROKENBURR OUSTER

The complaint also alleges that Robert L. Brokenburr is in a position where he represents conflicting interests as he is a trustee of the Sarah Walker estate, an officer and director of the Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company and executor of the A'Leila Walker Kennedy estate. The petition seeks to oust Brokenburr as executor of the A'Leila Walker Kennedy estate and have some one else appointed in his stead. Freeman B. Ransom, the other executor of the estate, has since died.

This suit is apparently the first round of the fight to oust Brokenburr as general manager of the Walker Company. Brokenburr was recently re-elected by the board of directors for another term. If this suit succeeds Merion Perry will be placed in control of the company. Perry's daughter is already president and Perry himself is treasurer, but the management of the company is in the hands of Brokenburr.

The Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company is the oldest of the hair companies under Negro control and management. Madam Walker made a fortune out of hair and beauty preparations many years before most of the other hair concerns came into existence.

$250,000 HOME

It was Madam Walker who built the quarter of a million dollar home on the Hudson river which became the center of Negro society in the teen years of this century.

The Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company is now the second largest hair and beauty preparations company in America.

Fight Over Walker Estate

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—(ANP)—Robert Lee Brokenburr, general manager of the Madame C. J. Walker Company, denied all charges made against him recently in a suit by Marion R. Perry and Sue Knox, co-administrators of the estate of Mae Walker Perry.

Brokenburr is executor of the A'Lelia Walker Kennedy estate and also trustee of the Sarah Walker estate.

Perry's suit charges that in listing the estate of A'Lelia Walker Kennedy, Brokenburr failed to list $58,000 in assets that he knew existed. He also charged that his three positions with the various estates and the Walker company conflicted. The suit is seeking the ouster of Brokenburr as executor of the A'Lelia Walker Kennedy estate.

LONG CONNECTION

The names of Brokenburr and the late F. B. Ransom have been connected with the Mme. C. J. Walker company for 35 years. Ransom has been attorney and general manager and Brokenburr assistant attorney and assistant manager. He became general manager when Ransom died last year. He was recently reelected manager by the board of directors.

Perry is a trustee, a director and treasurer of the company. He became connected with the firm in 1945 after the death of his wife, Mae Walker Perry. His daughter, Miss A'Lelia Mae Perry, is president of the company and owns one sixth of the stock.

Legal Fight Predicted Over Walker Estate

INDIANAPOLIS (ANP)—A legal fight involving three generations of Walkers—Mme. C. J. Walker; her daughter, Mme. A'Lelia Walker, and an adopted granddaughter, Mrs. Mae Walker Perry, loomed as a possibility here last week when Marion R. Perry, husband of the deceased Mrs. Perry, was reported contemplating suit against the estates for ownership of two-thirds of the capital stock of the Madam C. J. Walker Manufacuring Company.

According to Mr. Perry, who is an attorney, Mme. Walker's will provided that her daughter and later her adopted granddaughter should have some legal or equitable interest in the two-thirds capital stock.

However, R. L. Brokenburr, attorney and general manager of the company, pointed out in a recent statement that the will "did not intend to give Mme. A'Lelia Walker any interest" in that portion of the stock, nor had Mme. A'Lelia Walker assisted any claim that it had.

Provisions of Will

The provisions of the will, and the codicil attached, provided for the creation of a trust to be administered by five trustees, for a bequest to A'Lelia Walker of all title and interest to one-third of the business and all her personal property and certain realty.

In addition, it made many specific requests for money and property to various individuals and groups.

Ransom Given Interest

Mme. A'Lelia Walker died Aug. 17, 1931. Terms of her will designated Mrs. Mae Walker Perry, her adopted daughter, as recipient of one-half of the one-third interest in the company for life. Upon Mrs. Perry's death, however, the one-half interest was to be given to Mrs. Perry's daughter, A'Lelia Mae Perry. Perry was named the girl's guardian.

Other provisions of the will were that the late F. B. Ransom, attorney and then manager of the company, be given the other half of the interest in the company, which would revert to his daughter, A'Lelia E. Ransom, upon his death.

He died Aug. 6, 1947. The trustees of Mme. Walker's estate received Mme. A'Lelia Walker's interest in the Irvington property, with authority to sell, lease or dispose of it.

The property was later sold and proceeds donated to organizations stipulated in Mme. C. J. Walker's will. Certain real estate and household goods were left to Mrs. Mae Walker Perry, the president of the company during her lifetime, who died intestate Dec. 5, 1946.

According to Mr. Brokenburr, the present situation of the stock is that two-thirds is held by the five trustees for the benefit of certain charities enunciated in the will of Mme. C. J. Walker. One-sixth is owned by A'Lelia Perry, daughter of the late Mae Walker Perry, and Marion R. Perry; and one-sixth owned by A'Lelia Ransom, daughter of Mr. Ransom and Nettie L. Ransom.

The five trustees were R. L. Brokenburr, Violet D. Reynolds, Faburn E. DeFrantz, Marion R. Perry and Willard B. Ransom, all of Indianapolis.

Negro Dentist Sells Tract In St. Matthews

The Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Model-Subdivision Plans Are Dropped

Fri.

The tract of land he planned to develop into a Negro model subdivision has been sold by Dr. P. O. Sweeney, he said yesterday.

The land was a 29-acre section between Bowman Field and St. Matthews on the west side of Breckinridge Lane.

5-21-48

The purchase price was not disclosed. Dr. Sweeney said he didn't know who the buyer was as the land was sold through a real-estate agent, Frank Button.

To Buy Land for His Farm.

The reason he sold the land, the Negro dentist said, was to buy 151 acres adjoining his 175-acre farm on Shelbyville Road.

"Everything turned out for the best," he said. "This land next to my farm was just what I wanted and I had no idea I could get it. I couldn't swing both projects."

5-21-48

Dr. Sweeney, who will move to his farm this summer, has a herd of Angus cattle, raises hogs, and has a few horses. His chief crops are corn and tobacco. He also has 40 acres in alfalfa. "And I have some awfully nice neighbors, too," he said.

Turned Down One Buyer.

The Courier-Journal

Though there were more applications for lots in the proposed development than could be filled, work on the project was halted because of a oning Commission ruling that streets must be begun before any building is started in the subdivision. The required streets would have cost approximately $20,000.

Louisville, Ky.

Dr. Sweeney said he had an opportunity to sell the land "at a higher figure" to a man from out of town "whose reputation was not of the best."

5-21-48

"I didn't sell to him," he said, "because of all the controversy over this subdivision. And I didn't want there to be any criticism of me or my race in property dealings."

Fri.

Cornfield Oil Well Saves Old Ky. Farm

Chicago Defender
5-22-48
p. 2

CHICAGO — 37-year-old corn-and-tobacco farmer Booker T. Fellows [illegible] he couldn't work and the mortgage on his farm was due, says an April Ebony feature, "when, in the best melodramatic movie style, the colored ex-sharecropper discovered oil on his 113-acre Henderson County, Kentucky farm."

Every since he was laid off as janitor at the Ford River Rouge plant during the depression, Ebony declares, the spry and husky Fellow has been trying to make a go of it on his own. Starting as a day laborer on the farm he now owns, Fellows gradually worked his way up to sharecropper and finally bought the land he was working on shares. He was doing "pretty good" until sickness put him in bed and his doctor warned that he'd have to do less work.

With two growing boys and a wife to support, and the mortgage due on the farm, Fellows was saved in true Hollywood tradition by the discovery of oil just 500 yards from his kitchen one week before the mortgage fell due.

Average monthly income for the farmer from his well is $1500. Drilling on three other wells is now in progress.

Fortune Was Left by Late Husband

Md. Man Took Entire Amount, Mother Says

WOMAN IN NEED

Asked to Be Given Third of Estate

WASHINGTON

A story of a son's alleged inexcusable ingratitude toward the widow who gave him birth was told in District Court last week by Mrs. Lucy J. Banks, 365 G St., S.W.

Mrs. Banks accused her first-born, Isaiah Banks, 621 George St., Baltimore, of taking over lock, stock and barrel, an estimated fortune of $30,000 belonging to her late husband.

The husband, Andrew Banks, died in Baltimore of natural causes on last July 4. Though he and his wife to whom he had been married forty-seven years, had been estranged for a long period, Mr. Banks often visited her here, the last time, two weeks prior to his death.

Mrs. Banks has asked the District Court to award her $10,000 damages against Isaiah, born 48 years ago at 119 K St., S.W., to the then extremely young couple.

He is presently employed at the Washington Navy Yard and the mother wants the court to compel him to give an accounting of the assets and personal effects of the deceased he has in his possession.

She states that she is by law entitled to one-third of the estate. The son is said to have made no attempt to obtain letters of administration of the estate after taking it over.

Has No Bitterness

Though stunned by the trend of circumstances, Mrs. Banks manifests no bitterness at her first born's apparent lack of parental love. She asserts, in a maternal tone of voice, that she would have been satisfied with far less than the $10,000 she wants the court to award her, if her son had come forward in a straightforward manner and proferred it.

The mother states that she has not worked for several years and is dependent upon support by relatives, while her son contributes nothing.

The son is also said not to have invited his mother to the funeral of her husband which was held in Baltimore. He is reported to avoid the places around which he might run into his mother.

Discovers He's Entitled to Brother's $4,000 Estate

Thirteen Others Had Filed Claims, But He Proves to Be the Nearest Relative

BALTIMORE

The purchase of an AFRO-AMERICAN was probably the best investment George R. Henson of 1619 Division St., will make in a life time.

On his 10-cent outlay, Mr. Henson will profit more than $4,000, all because he read his "favorite newspaper."

When the AFRO-AMERICAN, reporting on the failure to locate a cousin of the late Charles Henson, showed that the estate could not be distributed, Mr. Henson saw the story.

Deceased's Closest Relative

After reading it, he realized that he was a nearer relative to the deceased than any of the 13 claimants the Orphans Court had, at that time, recognized.

The 13 claimants included an uncle and cousins, one of whom, Mrs. Annie Mapp, had been thought to have disappeared into Father Divine's kingdom.

Last week, George Henson and his attorney, Linwood Koger, went into court and proved that he was a half brother to the deceased, the two being sons of William Henson by first and second marriages.

Neighbors Aid Claimant

Assisting Mr. Henson in establishing his claim were several former neighbors including Miss Lottie Downs and Miss Nellie Buchanan of 2234 Madison Ave., the latter a teacher at Douglass High School, and Miss Caroline L. Peck of 556 W. Lanvale St.

The estate of the late Mr. Henson consisted of property at 1620 W. Lafayette Ave., which has been sold for $4,737; savings bonds valued at $172.87, $131.05 in cash and household furnishings.

Claims of $550 and $250 each have been paid to two of the cousins, Marian Washington and Mrs. Jeanette Washington, who lived at the Lafayette Ave. address and who cared for Mr. Charles Henson during his last illness.

$10,000 Estate Will Go to Kin

2nd Will Cancels First Beneficiaries

DECEASED WAS 75

Court Rules Woman Mentally Competent

RICHMOND — An ungrammatical, unpunctuated note crudely penciled on a scrap of paper by a 75-year-old widow, Mrs. Martha Turner, disposing of a $10,000 estate was recently declared genuine by the Chancery Court, which nullified a former "last will" naming as beneficiaries the Rev. John W. Kemp, pastor of four Baptist churches, et al.

The latest will admitted to probate after the court voided probate of the first document names as beneficiaries Joseph Johnson, a nephew of Mrs. Turner, and a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Wheeler, who lives in Philadelphia.

None Blood Kin

Neither the Rev. Mr. Kemp, his wife, Hattie, nor Mrs. Mary Morton Jones, who Mrs. Turner tended from the time she was about 10 years of age until her marriage, named in the first "will," were blood relatives of the widow.

The will probated after the court reversed its former ruling is dated Nov. 10, 1943. That held by the Kemps was dated July 24, 1939.

The three beneficiaries in the 1939 document, along with James T. Carter, their attorney and named executor, protested the introduction of the new "will."

No Influence Recognized

They raised the issue that at the date aforementioned, Mrs. Turner was without mental capacity to make a will and that the paper was procured by undue influence.

Frederic C. Carter of Washington and Richmond, attorney for the relatives of the deceased, produced two witnesses, Annie Smith and John Berkeley, who said they were familiar with Mrs. Turner's handwriting, that the signature was genuine, and that she was capable of making a will on the November date.

A handwriting expert designated by the court to study the scrap of paper testified also to the genuineness of the handwriting, that the signature attached thereto was in the manner required by law.

The Genuine Scrap

The little scrap of paper which the court decided is genuine follows:

"Martha Turner Born Oct 31th 1871

"Talk to kemp today this my last Will Made out Nove 10th 1943

"Give all my world possion house things in it to Nephew Joseph Johnson to my Sister Wh t in Trunk in 2 cash box in big wood box devide Bank Money in Will John Fitzgerald

Martha Turner"

Roland D. Faley, law partner of F. C. Carter, was named administrator of the estate under a $1,500 bond. It was also ordered that A. C. Epps, R. V. M. Dorsey, G. C. Dorsey, Phillip A. Coxe and J. W. Clay, or any three of them appraise the estate of the deceased.

John T. Carter, executor under the first "last will" probated in Sept., 1946, was ordered to settle his final accounts as such executor under the law.

Home Believed Sold

The Rev. Mr. Kemp, who was bequeathed the Turner home at 808 W. Clay St., is understood to have "sold" the house and not yet agreed to turn back to the would-be purchaser the money paid him.

The Rev. Mr. Kemp, under court order, is also said to have removed two boxes and a trunk from the Turner home before the sale.

F. C. Carter, meanwhile, has indicated that unless he is satisfied that all the cash in the boxes and trunk taken by the minister is accounted for, further court action is contemplated.

He also stated that further court action may be taken for the possession of the real estate left by Mrs. Turner.

Man Awarded Estate Left By Woman

White Husband Is Winner In Case

JACKSON, Miss., June 14 —The Supreme Court held Monday that a white man married to a Negro woman in Chicago can inherit her Mississippi property despite the state's segregation laws.

In Mississippi the marriage of a Negro to a white person is illegal.

Noting that the couple after marriage in Chicago had not lived in Mississippi, the Supreme Court said:

"The manifest and recognized purpose of this statue (prohibiting intermarriage of whites and Negroes) was to prevent persons of Negro and white blood from living together in this state in the relationship of husband and wife.

Unaffected By Laws

"Whereas, here, this did not occur, to permit one of the parties to such a marriage to inherit property in this state from the other does no violence to the purpose of section 263 of our Constitution and 459 of the Code of 1942 (pertaining to intermarriage).

"What we are requested to do is simply to recognize this marriage to the extent only of permitting one of the parties thereto to inherit from the other property in Mississippi, and to that extent it must and will be recognized."

In so ruling the Supreme Court

Mississippi Negro Leaves $604,801

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 12—(AP)—The late Dr. S. D. Redmond, believed to have been the wealthiest Negro in Mississippi history, left an estate of $604,801.09, records of the Hinds County Chancery Court showed today.

Dr. Redmond died last Feb. 11. He was 77. Appraisal of the estate was filed by Sydney R. Redmond, a son, who is a member of the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis.

Dr. Redmond, an active Republican until his death, was the latest Negro candidate for alderman in the City of Jackson.

NEGRO PROPERTY OWNERSHIP IN NEW YORK SOARING, AGE SURVEY DISCLOSES

The New York Age

New York, New York

New Yorkers Buying

Fri. 9-24-48

Homes, Apartments

BY JESSE WALKER

There are over 600,000 Negroes living in Harlem. A vast majority of them live in crowded tenements run by absentee landlords, private downtown real estate corporations or banks. Some few live in private low-cost housing projects a minority live in city housing projects and thousands hope to live in some of the same in the very near future.

There are quite a few living in the community who reside in their own property. And there are others who own property in the community although they don't live in it, the apartments being rented out often in some cases to white tenants.

Harlem real estate brokers estimate that Negroes own between two to five percent of the property in the area from 110th St. to 164th St. As low as this percentage looks it is, however, an increase which has taken place within the past 10 to 15 years.

Buying Elsewhere

Not confining themselves to the section of the city known as Harlem, Negroes are also moving into other territory where they have purchased property. Examples of this are shown in several Negro-owned houses along Riverside Drive where in some cases, all-white tenants live. In a single block made up of only two houses Negroes happen to own both.

Fri 9-24-48

The address at 655 Riverside Drive is a large imposing apartment building owned by Mr. and Mrs. Guichard Parris. Parris, director of public relations for the National Urban League, and his wife, Willie, also own another house around the corner. The Parris's were among the first Negroes to purchase property along the beautiful and ultra smart drive. A more recent purchaser is Hazel Scott, wife of Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, who with her husband, owns 706 Riverside Drive.

At 670 Riverside Drive is a six-story building owned by a Negro realty group, Leonscort Associates. Dr. Arthur Holiness is president of this group and Dr. Cecil Marquez is secretary. Leonscort Associates also own another six-story building located at 35 W. 110th St. Both houses are tenanted by mixed occupancy.

All White House

Next to 670 Riverside Drive however, is another Negro-owned building 676, which has an all-white occupancy. A ten-story apartment house overlooking the Hudson River Parkway and the Hudson River, this building is owned by Walter A. Miller Realty Co., of 209 W. 125th St., a Negro company.

Fri 9-24-48

Two of Harlem's best known apartment houses are also under Negro ownership. Both 409 Edgecombe and the famous "555" were purchased in recent years by one or more Negroes. "555" was purchased only last Spring by Evangelist Daddy Grace who, at the same time, acquired ownership of the building located at 125th St. and 8th Ave. which houses the Harlem Office of the Metropolitan Insurance Co.

409 Edgecombe, together with 270 Convent Ave. another select house in the community, are owned by the Antillean Holding Co., of 209 W. 125th St., of which A. A. Austin, long one of Harlem's foremost realtors, is president.

Included in the familiar buildings within the community which are Negro-owned are the Harlem Defense Recreation Building on 7th Ave. near 136th St., and the Masonic Temple, Prince Hall Masons, at 454 W. 155th St. The Masons have also recently purchased the adjoining lot to their building. Another building, the Mount Morris Park Hospital, located at 10 Mount Morris Park West, and which is scheduled to open its doors within the next two weeks, was purchased by a group of Negro physicians for a sum of $84,000.

Individual Negroes, on the whole, are purchasing more and more apartment houses of the tenement variety in the community and some few own whole blocks of real estate. Sugar Ray Robinson, often spoken of commendably for the manner in which he has used his prize fight earnings, is reported to have spent a sum of $225,000 to gain control of half the block in which his restaurant is located at Seventh Ave. and 123rd St.

Harlem real estate brokers are among the owners of more property than any other single individuals in the community. For instance, the following nine houses are owned by one broker: 2843 8th Ave., 168 W. 135th St., 170 W. 135th St., 234 W. 129th St., 110 W. 127th St., 207 W. 134th St., 122 W. 127th St., 267 W. 134th St., and 163-65 W. 145th St. Five of these houses are also free and clear of mortgages.

Fri Sept 24-48

Cooperatives

Another manner in which Negroes are acquiring property in Harlem is in cooperative ownership. Many such houses have been in operation in the community for over fifteen years. Scattered throughout Harlem, some cooperatives houses have failed because of various reasons and have been taken over by the banks. However, such houses as 103 W. 141st St., 435 Convent Ave., 188 W. 135th St. and 1990 7th Ave. continue to run smoothly and successfully.

At 137-139 W. 142nd St. is a cooperative house which has been owned by its tenants since 1925. John W. Walker, one of the first Negro members of the N. Y. State Real Estate Board, is president; Artnur T. Pelot, vice-president; the Rev. Horatio S. Hill, secretary; Charles Robinson, treasurer; and Mrs. Horatio S. Hill, house chairman.

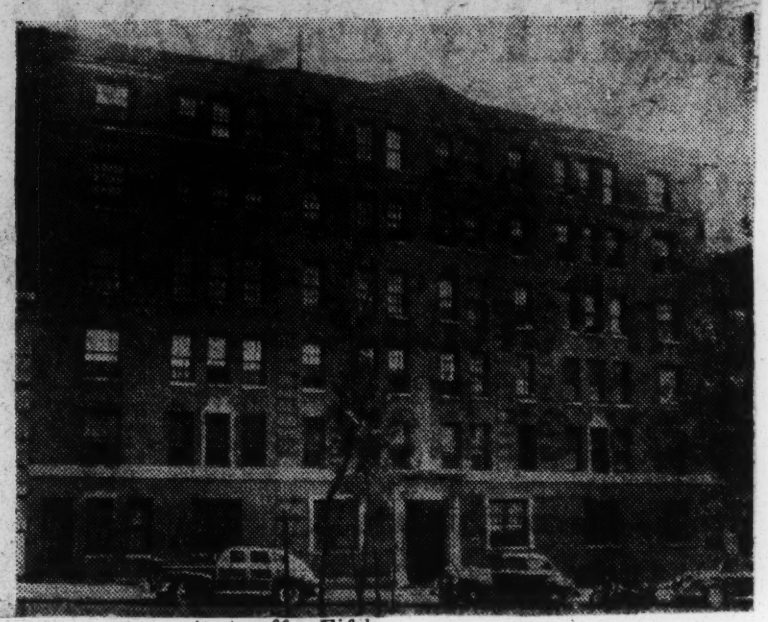
The mortgage on this house was paid off last May. The building is made up of 20 apartments, including fourteen 5 room apartments and six with 4 rooms. The building was originally purchased for a price of $70,000. Rents are scaled at $6 a room and after maintenance expenses are taken remaining monies go into a sinking fund.

While more Negroes continue to purchase apartment houses in Harlem, however, many are also buying property outside the Manhattan area, predominately in Queens, Long Island, Westchester and outlying suburbs.

Mt. Morris Park Hospital, left, purchased for $84,000, was bought by a group of Harlem physicians to remedy the crying need for more hospital facilities in the community. The seven-story building, scheduled to open within the next few weeks, is indication of purchasing power of Negroes in Harlem in recent years. Famed 409 Edgecombe Ave., Harlem's best known address, is owned by the Antillean Holding Co., a Negro group which also owns 270 Convent Ave. Penthouses are larger than those of 555 Edgecombe Ave., the popular Roger Morris, 14-story apartment purchased by Daddy Grace in the spring of 1947. Famed evangelist also owns building at 125th St. and Eighth Ave., housing offices of Metropolitan Insurance Co.

Harlem Purchasing Power

This six-story building (left) at 670 Riverside Drive, whose tenants are interracials, is owned by Lenscort Associates, Negro realty group which also owns the apartment at 35 W. 110th St. Pictured at right is the 10-story building owned by a group of Negroes. Ten-story apartment at 676 Riverside Drive is owned by Negroes and has an all-white occupancy. Building is rented by the Walter A. Miller Realty Co. of 209 W. 125th St. Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., and his wife, Hazel Scott, also own an apartment house on Riverside Drive.—Staff photos by James C. Campbell.



Dick Huey Leaves $50,000 Estate to Widow, Daughter

NEW YORK — Mrs. Frances Huey, the widow of Richard (Dick) Huey, and his daughter, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Huey of Newport, R.I., are to share the estate of the famous actor, which is valued at more than $50,000, it was revealed last week.

The disclosure was made, Thursday, by Bernard R. Grossman, Wall St. lawyer and advisor of the radio star for 20 years, when the lawyer entered Surrogate Court to file Huey's will.

The announcement came as a surprise to newspapermen, who knowing of Huey's generosity to less fortunate persons in show business were unaware that he had amassed so large an estate.

Body Cremated

In keeping with a request that he made of his wife while living, Huey, who died of a heart attack on Nov. 11, here at the age of 46, was not given public rites. His body was cremated, also according to his request.

Huey, who has occupied a place in the forefront of stage, movie and radio stars since the days of Florence Mills and other great stars, was operator of Aunt Dianah's Kitchen here, a familiar haunt of the greats and near-greats **in the entertainment field, since 1933.**

Lauded as "Democrat"

Once a month, newsmen, actors and show people in general met there and grew nostalgic over the many happenings through the years in show business.

On Thursday, Mr. Grossman lauded Huey as "a true example of a real democrat. He was a man who took care of a lot of little people quietly and without fanfare. That was his way of doing things," the attorney concluded.

Typical of the hundreds of messages received by the widow from Huey's friends was one sent by Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, which said, in part:-

"Dick never forgot the people from whom he sprang. To the last he was identified with the forces of labor and progress, at a time when some of the more timid 'bigshots' were running for cover. He fought and was fought by the jim-crow system in our country."

Young Negro Vet A Wall Street Business Wizard

Chicago—Modern Midas is 27-years-old Dunbar McLaurin, a Negro vet who is featured in December Ebony as an ex-GI who amassed nearly a million dollars in the few years since his discharge from the army at the end of World War II.

Holder of a Ph. D. in economics, McLaurin is the head of the Far Eastern Trade Association and operates offices in New York, Manila Shanghai and Hong Kong. A native of Oklahoma, when he was discharged as a lieutenant in Manila he went into the used car business selling army surplus jeeps. Known there as "Honest Mac—The Poor Man's Friend," he cleared $18.000.00 in his first deal and has been in the business ever since.

McLaurin's sales manager is white and works with him in his New York office just off Fifth Avenue which has a staff of five. His staff of Filipino workers in the Pacific boasts 400 workers and a weekly payroll of $22,000.00

McKee Heirs Use Civil War Census

Daily World

PHILADELPHIA—(ANP)— Grand children of Col. John McKee are using census records of the Civil war period when the colonel earned his title to establish their right to share in his estate. A white man formerly admitted he had blood in his veins to qualify as a claimant for the $800,000 estate.

Census records of 1840 and 1870 were introduced to support the claims of Edgar Boyd McKee, Philadelphia; Ms. Lucretia MacKee Bell, Alexandria, Va.; Mrs. Marion McKee Turner, New York and Mrs. Mary McKee Tigner, Washington on May 19 in court here.

The four testified in Orphans court proceedings that they are great grandchildren of the Negro Civil War veterans who died in 1902.

Atlanta, Ga.

Colonel McKee directed that his estate go towards establishment of a "Junior Annapolis" at Bristol, Pa., for 400 white and Negro orpha boys. The will was the subject of a controversy because the funds now available were deemed inadequate to meet the requests.

Thomas J. Clary, counsel for the four claimants, told special master John Blessings Jr., he was prepared to show that the clients are the children of Edgar Boyd McKee, son of John McKee Jr.

4 More Claim Share In Estate Of Wealthy Negro

The Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.
Fri. 4-16-48

Philadelphia, April 15 (AP)—Special Master John Blessing, Jr., disclosed today that four new claimants are seeking a share of the $800,000 estate left by the late Col. John McKee, Negro Civil War figure.

T. John McKee, a New York lawyer for 40 years, has identified himself as a grandson and "forgotten heir" of the wealthy Negro, Blessing said. 4-16-48

Blessing said the new claimants are seeking shares as great-grandchildren. He identified them as Mrs. Marion McKee Turner, Mrs. Lucretia McKee Bell, Edgar Boyd McKee, and Mrs. Mary McKee Tigner. He said the identity of five other great-grandchildren already has been established.

Relatives Fight a Losing Battle

Court Upholds Grant of Funds to Woman

DECEASED WAS 71

Five Brothers and Sisters Get Nothing

WASHINGTON

The will of a 71-year-old white man, leaving the bulk of his $20,000 estate to a woman who befriended him in his declining days, is being bitterly contested by five brothers and sisters, who claimed the document was obtained through fraud, undue influence and deceit.

However, the complainants have fought a losing war in the court proceedings up to this point.

The will was made by Jerome W. Keys, property owner and rooming house proprietor, who died on last March 20. Under its terms, Mrs. Nina L. Brown, his housekeeper who operates the rooming house at 1202 N St., N.W., and whose racial identity has been questioned, will get the property valued at from $12,000 to $14,000.

Sister Remembered

The elderly man, however, remembered one sister, Mrs. Ora K. Dunham, 1212 Twelfth St., N.W., who receives the household furnishings. The other five were specifically excluded from the estate by the terms of the will.

The decument was filed for probate by Sandolphra Robinson, young colored attorney, who had handled much of Mr. Keys' legal affairs over a long period of time and who is named executor in the will.

Don C. Keys and his four other brothers and sisters immediately hollored "fraud" and filed a writ of caveat, in an attempt to stop the court from enforcing the terms of the will.

Mr. Robinson denied the charge and asked the appointment of a collector for the estate, which came up for hearing before District Court Justice T. A. Goldsborough, last week.

Colored Collector Suggested

When the jurist asked who he perferred for a collector, Mr. Robinson suggested either George E. C. Hayes or Belford V. Lawson Jr., both attorneys.

At this point, David L. Riordan, attorney for the disgruntled kin, objected in open court to the appointment of a colored collector, saying the neighborhood is 100% white and the tenants in the rooming house are all white.

He also stressed the fact that a colored rent collector would have to come in contact with the whites weekly as he went about getting the rents and intimated that there might be friction.

Argument Held False

Mr. Robinson countered with the retort that the deceased white man had seen fit to name him as his personal representative in the disposition of the property. He also asseretd that there is no doubt that he is colored and that there is strong suspicion that the principal beneficiary also is colored.

Mr. Robinson denied that the neighborhood is 100% white, but the fact is that it is about 75% colored, who have one of the largest churches in the vicinity. Mr. Robinson said he was informed the deceased had made substantial contributions to this church. He further pointed out that the laws of the District enable colored rent collectors to perform their duties just as they do white ones.

"Only Looks White"

Riordan told the court that he believed that Mrs. Brown is colored because she has "all the features of a colored person except that of color." She looks white, he opined, but after that she is colored.

Justice Goldsborough asked Mr. Robinson, "Who do you want named collector?"

"Belford V. Lawson Jr.," was the reply. Justice Goldsborough thereupon immediately signed the order for Mr. Lawson with a $12,000 bond.

Upon a petition filed by Mr. Robinson for leave to employ counsel, the appointment of Arve E. Hancock as attorney for the estate was approved.

Dr. Stubbs Leaves $65,651 Estate

PHILADELPHIA

Under the terms of the will of Dr. Frederick Douglass Stubbs, who died Feb. 9, 1947, in Long Island City, N.Y., a legacy of $1000 was granted last week to the Douglass Hospital, 1530 Lombard St. for use in its surgical and tubercular work.

The will, dated July 23, 1943, also provides that a nephew, Dr. Francis T. Jamison, shall have any desired office equipment and sections of the physician's library and that his sisters, Elizabeth and Jeanette, shall each have some item of his personal property.

Final inventories of the estate showed a total of $65,651.58, including $2,095 in cash, and office equipment valued at $1015.75.

Dr. Stubbs also provided that his wife, Mrs. Marion Turner Stubbs of 1920 N. 12th St., shall inherit his share of the estate of his father, J. Bacon Stubbs.

He ordered, however, that his mother, Mrs. Blanche W. Stubbs, shall have the interest from this share as long as she lives.

The remainder of the estate was willed to his wife and two children.

MAID WILLED $100 A MONTH FOR LIFE

Journal - Guide
Norfolk, Va.
Sat. 1-24-48

Philadelphia, Pa.-(ANP)- Miss Margaret Farmer, a one time house maid for the late Charles H. Newcomb, white, will have $100 a month income for life whenever she decides to quit working.

Miss Farmer, who worked in the Newcomb home for 27 years, was bequeathed the monthly annunity by Newcomb because she was "my faithful maid."

However, the annuity becomes effective only when she leaves her job, but she announced last week that she has no plan for quitting.

Estranged Mate Left Out of Will Hits Provisions

Afro-American Baltimore ed
Sat. 6-26-48

Kin Who Worked With Her in Funeral Home May Now Get Less Than 25%

PHILADELPHIA

The release of George Emory, nephew of the late Mrs. Florence White Black, from all association with the Black and White Funeral Home, was revealed this week, with the dismissal of Abraham Needleman, Mrs. Black's attorney.

Desipte the fact that Mrs. Black had intended the bulk of her estate to go to her nephew, her husband, by law, will receive one half of it and one half again of her partnership interests, totaling between $300.000 and $400.000.

The attorney is charged with conspiring with Mrs. Black in the attempt to disinherit her husband; but official records show that nine-tenths of the property was jointly owned. 6-26-48

The will was admitted to probate Saturday morning, and an election to "take against the will" was filed Tuesday by Raymond Pace Alexander, attorney for Black.

Emory, who had been working closely with Mrs. Black for several years, was "let out" of the business completely, and will receive only 25% of her personal estate, which has been estimated at $20,000.

In her will, Mrs. Black indicated that Emory was to have the major portion of her estate, and named someone else as executor. Her husband from whom she had been separated for several months, was not mentioned.

They had been married for more than 15 years and conducted the funeral establishment at 1410 S. Twentieth St.

Death Dissolved Partnership

The partnership, according to Alexander, was automatically dissolved upon the death of Mrs. Black. He said that he and his client felt "no concern at all" about the final disposition of the estate, and would not contest the will.

Mrs. Black, who died two weeks ago in Graduate Hospital, was well known for her generous assistance to underprivileged persons, and for her willingness to offer counsel and advice.

She also sponsored the education of several students.

A native Philadelphian, she was the daughter of the late George H. White, mortician.

She was a member of Union Baptist Church, the Golden Circle, Fairview Golf Club and American Woodmen.

Maid Willed $100 a Month Life Income

PHILADELPHIA. — (ANP) — Miss Margaret Farmer, a one-time house maid for the late Charles H. Newcomb, white, will have $100 a month income for life whenever she decides to quit working. The woman, who worked

N.Y. Lawyer, 67, Yale Grad, Removes Mask

Admits 'Passing' for Over 40 Years in Fight for Civil War Vet's Estate

PHILADELPHIA

T. John McKee, ailing 67-year-old wealthy New York lawyer who revealed his racial identity to press his claim for the $8,000,000 estate of Col. John McKee, Civil War veteran—after having "passed" for white for over 40 years—has been "definitely established" as the last surviving grandson.

His lawyer, H. Eugene Heine, who represented him at a hearing recently before John Blessing in Orphans' Court, produced records to show that the claimant was born Theophilus John Minton Syphax, son of Abbie McKee Syphax and John Vincent Syphax.

Further hearings in the case are scheduled for March 24.

Aroused by Legal Notice

Aroused when he saw a notice in a legal journal that the wealthy estate would be disposed of by the Orphans' Court, "in the absence of any living descendant," the lawyer dropped his racial mask by filing a claim as the only living heir.

He had so completely crossed the color line that he was wholly unaware that several great grandchildren were alive and also filing claims.

Other Claimants

Among them are William McKee Syphax of Asbury Park, N.J.; Abbie Syphax Jones of Washington, D.C.; Bismarck Douglas Syphax of Jersey City; Alma Syphax Scurlock, also of Washington, identified as great grandchildren, and Mrs. Scurlock's mother, Mrs. Novella Syphax.

Two of these claimants have come forward in their own right and, in effect, substantiate the New York lawyer's claim that he is the grandson of the Civil War veteran. They are:

Mrs. Alma Syphax Scurlock, former wife of Gov. William H. Hastie of the Virgin Islands, now the wife of Herbert Scurlock, a government employee; and her mother, Mrs. Novella Syphax, both of Washington. They are represented by the firm of Houston, Houston, Hastie and Waddy.

D.C., N.J. Relatives

A coincidence in this case which has rekindled nation-wide interest in the racial ancestry of all Americans, is that Mrs. Syphax's husband and Mrs. Scurlock's father, Marcellus Syphax, and the New York lawyer were brothers, grandsons of the Civil War Veteran.

Bismarck D. Syphax, 54-year-old resident of Jersey City, light enough to "pass," said his father, Douglas, who spoke often of Col. McKee, told him that he (the father) had four brothers.

He identified them as Theophilus Syphax (T. John McKee), John, Marcellus and Ernest, adding that his uncle, the New York lawyer, was "the only one who passed over."

1904 Court Records Cited

Although relatives here said Theophilus Syphax claimed his racial ancestry on the day Col. McKee died in April, 1902, the records of the Superior Court of Hartford, Conn., showed that he changed his name to T. John McKee in 1904, the year he graduated from Yale Law School.

The lawyer kept his secret so well that even his law associate, Irving Berger, admitted that he had never heard of the racial angle until McKee filed his claim to share in the estate.

His second wife, Mrs. Aimee Bennet McKee, whom he married six years ago in Elkton, Md., said that she was shocked by the revelations concerning her husband's racial background, but added, "I'll certainly stand by him."

McKee is also the father of two grown sons.

Family Records Tell Story

According to family records, Col. McKee died here in 1902. His survivors, so far as was known at the time, were Mrs. Abbie Ann Syphax, a daughter, and Dr. Harry McKee Minton, the son of a deceased daughter, and Mrs. Martha Virginia Minton.

Mrs. Abbie Ann Syphax had five sons. They were John McKee Syphax, Douglas Prosser Syphax, Marcellus M. Syphax, Theophilus J. Syphax and Ernest Syphax.

2 Challenged Will, Won

After Col. McKee's death, Mrs. Syphax and Dr. Minton contested his will, resulting in a compromise.

Under the terms of the settlement, Mrs. Abbie Ann Syphax and Dr. Minton were to receive annuities during their lifetimes, and,

Each of the five sons of Mrs. Abbie Ann Syphax, grandsons of Col. McKee, were to receive annuities, beginning upon the death of their mother and ending upon the death of the particular annuitant.

Mrs. Minton Shared Estate

Mrs. Abbie Ann Syphax died in Washington in 1923.

Mrs. Martha Virginia Minton, mother of Dr. Minton, was once paid $55,000 from the estate and, at the time of her death, was scheduled to receive a second sum for that amount.

Naval Academy Named

Upon the death of the last of Col. McKee's grandchildren, the estate was to be used to build a Naval academy for white and colored orphans in Bristol township, near Philadelphia. The Catholic archbishop of Philadelphia was named trustee.

When Dr. Minton died here, Dec. 29, 1946, Cardinal Dougherty, believing he was the last of the Colonel's grandchildren, so informed the court of reported inability to carry out terms of the trust, because the fund was inadequate, and asked for instructions as to application of the money.

Court Named Referee

The Orphans' Court appointed a referee to determine whether there were more heirs and then to make recommendations for the court's guidance.

It was then that T. John McKee came forward and said he was actually Theophilus Syphax.

Lineage Traced to Va.

McKee's claim is being supported by Mrs. Camilla Johnson, cousin of the late Dr. Minton and administratrix of his estate, who confirmed that there had been such a grandson and he had changed his name to McKee.

Col. McKee is said to have been born in Virginia and to have gone to Pennsylvania, worked for a German family named Prosser and married one of the daughters. He is also alleged to have recruited and equipped his own regiment during the Civil War.